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IN CELEBRATION OF CELESTE,
TEXAS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the citizens and former residents of Celeste, Texas, who are celebrating the rich heritage of their hometown with a community celebration on September 3, 2000. Founded more than 100 years ago, the town of Celeste has endured and thrived due to the hard work, devotion, and community spirit of those who have chosen to live and work and raise their families there. From the early settlers to today's citizens, Celeste has been blessed with honest, hard-working families who take pride in their community and work hard to preserve the wonderful town that I am honored to represent in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

The town of Celeste was born when Santa Fe Railroad officials purchased land situated in Hunt County, 50 miles from Dallas, on high rolling prairie between the north fork of the Sabine River and the south fork of the Red River and at the junction of the Missouri Pacific, Gulf Colorado and Santa Fe Railways. The engineers divided the town site into blocks and streets, and a public sale of town lots was held on April 19, 1887. The settlement was named Celeste in honor of one of the railroad official's daughters. On February 11, 1898, more than 20 residents and qualified voters met in the office of the Hunt County Judge for the purpose of incorporating Celeste, and an election was held on March 5, 1898, officially incorporating the town.

In the early years, and even before the railroad began to purchase land or lay tracks, numerous small settlements were established around what is now known as Celeste. Some families still reside in these communities; other settlements are marked by graveyards and other markers, and their history is kept alive through the memories shared by those who once lived there. White Rock, Kingston, Prosperity, Alliance, Dulaney, Hackberry, Goosneck, Orange Grove, Hickory Creek, Hogeys (where Audie Murphy once lived), Nicholson, Midway, Bradburn, and Lane are some of the beloved settlements that were part of Celeste's early history.

Those were the days when small (sometimes one-room) schools were commonplace. Most of these communities established their own schools, and other beloved schools in the area included Antioch School, Crescent School, Davenport School, Sam Houston School, Prairie Hill School, Enterprise School, and Rainbow School. These eventually consolidated and most became part of the Celeste school system.

Churches also were vital to these communities, providing spiritual and moral guidance as well as a "meeting place" for social gatherings. Some of these churches remain active in their respective communities.

Records indicate that Celeste received its first postmaster in 1886. The post office was housed in several buildings until 1962, when a

new building was dedicated by Congressman Ray Roberts, who traced its legacy to his predecessor, the Representative from the Fourth Congressional District and the great former Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn.

For many years the Celeste Courier chronicled the events of this community. Births and deaths, school and church activities, commerce and crime, politics and social events, sports and other interests were reported for area residents. But of course much of the news also was shared in person by this close-knit community, most of whom know each other well.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize this outstanding city in the Fourth Congressional District and to pay tribute to the citizens of Celeste, Texas, as they honor their hometown on the occasion of this wonderful celebration. Let us join today in celebrating the rich history of Celeste and wishing this community much happiness and prosperity for another hundred years.

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HONORING THE CEDAREDEGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Cedaredge Police Department for receiving the Colorado Association of Chief of Police Accreditation Award. This award is given to Departments that meet lofty and highly selective standards. This fitting award was accepted by Marshall Tom Early and Officers Archibeque and Beach of the Cedaredge Police Department.

According to the Chief of Police of Montrose, Colorado, Gary Meecham, in a recent article by Leeanna Mewhinney, "Many people do not know what it takes in order to get this honorable award. Over 160 standards must be met and out of 300 agencies (police departments) in Colorado, only 3 departments on the Western Slope have received this, Cedaredge being one of them." This statement shows the dedication and hard work that is required to receive this distinguished recognition.

Police officers work very hard and often do not receive the recognition they truly deserve. It is with great honor that I congratulate the officers of Cedaredge Colorado for not only their recent award, but also their continued efforts to keep Western Colorado a safe environment for all its citizens.

As a former police officer, I am grateful for their service to our community, state and nation.

Congratulations!

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TRIBUTE TO OPHELIA MEJIA

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is

both fitting and proper that we recognize this community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Ophelia Mejia.

Ophelia Mejia has devoted a lifetime to improving the condition of children and families in the Denver area. Ophelia was born to parents who emigrated from Mexico and following her father's death at an early age, she graduated from Greeley High School and was employed at the Greeley Tribune while attending the University of Northern Colorado on a scholarship. There, she met her husband and subsequently, they had thirteen children.

Ms. Mejia began her distinguished career in early childhood care and development in the Park Hill area where she opened a family childcare home. She then taught preschool, became a director, and began to teach at the Community College of Aurora where she ultimately became department chair for the Early Childhood Education Department. In that capacity, she was able to access many grants in order that students who had difficulty paying tuition could still attend classes. She is now a specialist with the Community Development Institute, a Head Start Quality Improvement Center for Region VIII, where she provides training and technical assistance to sixteen Head Start Programs.

Ophelia has an impressive history of civic leadership. She is president of the Colorado Child Care Workforce, a board member of the Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children, and a member of the Colorado Child Care Commission. She also serves on the Professional Development and Distance Learning Committees of the Colorado Early Childhood Summit. She conducts bilingual and monolingual Spanish assessments of candidates for the Colorado Child Care Development Associate credential and has been on the advisory boards for the early childhood departments of Metropolitan State College, Emily Griffith Opportunity School, First Start, Including Children with Disabilities, and Healthy Start Initiatives. Additionally, she has been a member of the Colorado Child Care Coalition, the early Childhood Educators' Network, the Colorado Community College Faculty Coalition and the Latin Council of Aurora.

It comes as no surprise that Ophelia Mejia's devotion and service to our community has been honored and she received the first Outstanding Leaders Award from the Denver Metro Association for the Education of Young Children.

Please join me in commending Ophelia Mejia. It is the strong leadership that she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans. Her life serves as an example to which we should all aspire.

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COMMENDING ARTHUR AND IDA
ANDER FRIEDMAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Arthur and Ida Ander Friedman. On Sunday, September

10, 2000, Art and Ida will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to Northwest Indiana and to the State of Israel. Their praiseworthy efforts will be recognized at the annual Northwest Indiana-Israel Dinner of Peace Award. The State of Israel Bond presents the City of Peace Award to worthy recipients who demonstrate their dedication and outstanding service to Israel and their community.

This year's recipients, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ander Friedman, are two of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. Art and Ida hail from Hammond, Indiana and Davenport, Iowa, respectively. Art is a World War II Veteran, and proudly served under General Patton in the European Theater. He is actively involved in several organizations, including B'nai B'rith, his Synagogue's Men's Club, and the Marcus-Wallack Heart Fund. Ida shares Art's dedication to Northwest Indiana and the Jewish community there, and invests extraordinary time and energy in important community and national groups. She has been active in Jewish Women International, the Synagogue's Sisterhood, Hadassah, and the Marcus-Wallack Heart Fund.

While serving the greater community has always been an extremely important part of the Friedmans' lives, their dedication to their family is unparalleled. Art and Ida have three wonderful, grown children, Gary, Richard, and Steven. Their four grandchildren are constant sources of pride and happiness.

The special guest at this gala event will be Mr. Morton Klein. Mr. Klein is the National President of the Zionist Organization of America. He is a strong defender of Israel and a respected leader in the American Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker., I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Art and Ida Friedman for their lifetime of service, success, and dedication to Indiana's First Congressional District and the State of Israel.

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HONORING COSME SANCHEZ JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Honorable Cosme Sanchez, Jr. on his outstanding commitment to public service. Mr. Sanchez has spent over three decades serving his community, most recently as Costilla County Treasurer. Mr. Sanchez has also served as County Appraiser and Town Clerk and Municipal Judge for the town of San Luis.

The Honorable Mr. Sanchez has served the citizens of Costilla County exceptionally well in his roles as a public servant. Citizens such as Mr. Sanchez, that are willing to spend so much of their lives serving the public, are the reason that the state of Colorado is the great state that it is. Costilla County is privileged to have had such an upstanding public servant as Mr. Sanchez.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Sanchez on his commitment to bettering his community through public service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO POLLY BACA

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Polly Baca.

Polly Baca has amassed a distinguished record of leadership in our community and service to our nation. Ms. Baca grew up in Greeley Colorado and where she attended high school. After graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in political science, she began her professional career as an editorial assistant for a labor union in Washington, DC. During the Johnson Administration, she served as a Public Information Officer for a key White House Agency and after serving on the campaign staff for the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, she served as the Director of Research and Information for the National Council of La Raza.

Polly Baca has always been a trailblazer and upon returning to Colorado, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and was the first woman elected to chair the House Democratic Caucus. She was subsequently elected to the Colorado Senate and became the first minority woman and the first and only Hispanic woman to serve in this body and the first Hispanic woman to serve in leadership in a State Senate in the U.S.

Prior to joining the Clinton Administration, Ms. Baca was the Executive Director of the Colorado Hispanic Institute, a non-profit entity dedicated to developing cultural competence and multicultural leadership. She went on to serve as the Director of the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs and in that capacity, she chaired the Consumer Affairs Council and the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Committee on Consumer Policy. Subsequently, Ms. Baca was appointed Regional Administrator of the General Services Administration in the six-state Rocky Mountain Region and is the first minority woman and the first Hispanic woman to be appointed to this position.

Ms. Baca is nationally known for her leadership skill and has extensive experience in foreign affairs and is a noted international speaker as well. She has lectured in Japan and the Philippines on the American political system and the role of racial and ethnic Americans and women in the American socio-political and economic systems. Currently, Ms. Baca is the CEO of Sierra Baca Services which is a firm specializing in multicultural leadership development and diversity training.

Her commitment and service has earned her several awards including being inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and into the National Hispanic Hall of Fame as an original member. She received the Small Business Administrator's Advocate of the Year Award for Colorado and the Leadership Award from the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Please join me in commending Polly Baca. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a

daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans. Her life serves as an example to which we should all aspire.

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HONORING BISHOP RICARDO HENRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Ricardo Henry, Pastor of the True Vine Glorious Church of God in Christ. I honor Bishop Henry today to celebrate with him his 67th birthday, which occurred last week, on September 2, 2000. Mr. Speaker, Bishop Henry is deserving of our praise on his birthday because he has served as a pillar of our community, having devoted his life to serving the needs of others.

Born on September 2, 1933 on the island of Old Providence, Colombia, Bishop Henry was blessed with excellence, greatness, the favor of God, love and honor, the law of kindness in tongue, morality and character. All of these amazing attributes are the result of a God-centered life.

At the age of 7 months, he migrated to the Republic of Panama, where he received his elementary education at the Escuela Pablo Arosemena. He obtained his high school education at Colegio Abel Bravo and, upon graduation, he pursued his formal Christian training at Bible School in Panama from 1957 to 1958.

In 1963, he immigrated to the United States and became a member of the Evergreen Baptist Church. In 1965, he moved his membership to the Sacred Heart Christian Church, where he was ordained as a minister of the gospel by Bishop Roden James. He was later consecrated as a Bishop by Bishop Charles DeGilio and Bishop Trevlen Williams. In 1986 he became a member of the Glorious Church of God in Christ, and served as an Associate Minister to Bishop Perry Lindsay, Sr. Appointed by Bishop Perry Lindsay, Sr., in 1997 he became Pastor of the True Vine Glorious Church of God in Christ.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Ricardo Henry is more than worthy of receiving our birthday wishes, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in honoring this truly remarkable man.

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HONORING CLEO DAY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to commend the Honorable Cleo Day on her distinguished service as Custer County Commissioner in Colorado. Serving as County Commissioner since 1992, Ms. Day has focused on a whole array of important issues, including efforts to protect property rights and helping improve the Emergency 911 service in Custer County.

Before becoming County Commissioner, Ms. Day ran a number of small grocery stores throughout Colorado that were committed to